

Message Text

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11
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

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R 110807Z AUG 76
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9064
INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV
DIA WASHDC
USMISSION USUN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 5286

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINS, SY, UR, PLO
SUBJECT: SYRIAN COMMUNIST PARTY SUPPORT OF DAMASCUS ACCORD

1. COMMUNIST PARTY OF SYRIA (CPS) HAS DISTRIBUTED FLYER ANNOUNCING ITS SUPPORT FOR DAMASCUS ACCORD SIGNED JULY 27, WHICH IT CHARACTERIZED AS "POSITIVE EVENT" AND "GREAT VICTORY FOR ARAB LIBERATION MOVEMENT." RESTORATION OF SYRO-PALESTINIAN COHESION IN AFTERMATH OF ACCORD WILL PERMIT PARTIES TO DIRECT ENERGIES TOWARD OPPOSING AMERICAN IMPERIALISM, PARTIAL SETTLEMENTS SUCH AS SINAI AGREEMENT AND TWOARD LIBERATION OF OCCUPIED ARAB TERRITORIES. DAMASCUS ACCORD "FOILED ATTEMPT TO SAUDI-EGYPTIAN AXIS TO EXHAUST SYRIANS AND PALESTINIANS AND DRAG THEM INTO CAPITULATIONIST SADATI POLICY."

2. CPS ASSERTED THAT DAMASCUS ACCORD ENJOYED
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WIDESPREAD SUPPORT FROM "ESSENTIAL FACTIONS" IN PLO, SYRIAN MASSES AND SYRIAN PROGRESIVE NATIONAL FRONT (PFN) TO WHICH CPS BELONGS. DOCUMENT CONTINUED, "CPS DECLARES ITS SUPPORT FOR DAMASCUS ACCORD AND ITS

READINESS TO EXERT MAXIMUM EFFORT TO ACHIEVE ITS
REALIZATION. SOVIET UNION AND SOCIALIST CAMP
WELCOMED ACCORD." CPS CLAIMED THAT EGYPT, ISRAEL,
US, CHAMOUNISTS AND OLD-LINE LEBANESE MUSLIM LEADERS
OPPOSED AGREEMENT. LEBANESE LEFTIST RESISTANCE TO
ACCORD WAS ACKNOWLEDGED, AND DOCUMENT RECOMMENDED
THAT "ROLE OF LEBANESE PROGRESSIVE FORCES SHOULD BE
TO CONTRIBUTE TO SUCCESS OF ACCORD AND ITS
IMPLEMENTATION BECAUSE ACCORD IN THEIR BEST INTEREST.
DOCUMENT CONCLUDED WITH APPEAL TO LEBANESE LEFTIST/
PALESTINIAN COALITION TO CEASE "MARGINAL BATTLES"
AND DIRECT THEIR ATTENTION TOWARD LIBERATION OF
OCCUPIED LANDS AND SAFEGUARDING OF PALESTINIAN RIGHTS.

3. COMMENT: TRADITIONALLY, CPS AND ITS SECGEN
BAKDASH HAVE BEEN AMONG MOST CONSISTENT SUPPORTERS
OF SOVIET POLICY LINE IN REGION. ASSUMING THAT
VIEWS CONTAINED IN CPS DOCUMENT ARE IN GENERAL ACCORD
WITH THOSE OF MOSCOW, IT WOULD APPEAR THAT SUCCESSFUL
NEGOTIATION OF DAMASCUS AGREEMENT HAS PARTIALLY
RELIEVED SOVIET REGIME FROM HAVING TO CHOOSE BETWEEN LEBANESE
LEFTIST/PALESTINIAN SIDE AND SYRIANS. AGREEMENT HAS PROVIDED
SOVIETS WITH VEHICLE FOR CAJOLING BOTH SIDES TO IMPLEMENT
TERMS OF SETTLEMENT.
MURPHY

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<< END OF DOCUMENT >>

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